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Application No. 10/766,675

MAY 18 2007

Remarks

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 6 and 11 have been amended.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as failing to set forth the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. The claimed language "an application program" (Claim 1, line 12; Claim 6, line 12; Claim 11, lines 8-9) was indicated as being indefinite. Claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended to indicate in two places in each claim that "application program" refers to the "application program" in line 4 in each of Claims 1, 6 and 11. Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated MacLean et al. (US Patent No. 6,505,219). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants' meta-document tracks all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document during its entire lifetime and stores this information in a single location; it is stored in the meta-document data structure on a computer-readable storage medium. Each time the meta-document is processed by an application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, that processing information is stored in the meta-document. Each time the meta-document is processed by an application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the associated metadata is stored in the meta-document.

McLean teaches a process management system wherein process descriptions provide indices to document histories. McLean is interested in managing a process which generates multiple documents (see for example, figure 2 of McLean: application document 201, risk assessment 1 document 202, reference documents 203, risk assessment 2 document 204 and offer document 205). While McLean records the history of the process (for example, a mortgage application process), McLean is not concerned with the problem of recording all processes that might happen to any one of the documents in the process during the life of any one of the documents (as opposed to the history of the process).

McLean teaches storing metadata in a storage location separate from the content. See col. 6, lines 26-30 of McLean. McLean also teaches storing some metadata with the document and some on a network (see col. 12, lines 9-15). However, McLean does not teach storing all associated metadata with the document because McLean's is not concerned with the history of

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the document. McLean does not teach or suggest "wherein the metadata comprises all associated metadata pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by the application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the metadata being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed". McLean only stores a portion of the metadata associated with each task document. For example, McLean does not teach storing a record of who viewed a particular document with that document (col. 8, lines 1-3). McLean does not teach or suggest storing a record of who viewed a particular document and when (see col. 11, lines 10-15).

McLean is concerned with the metadata associated with the original document, not with metadata pertaining to each copy. See col. 11, lines 45-60. Each copy refers back to the metadata of the original document. In Applicants' meta-document, when a copy of a document is made, a record of the fact that a copy has been made is stored on the meta-document pertaining to the original document, then the copy becomes associated with a new meta-document, which contains metadata indicating it is a copy of some other document. In Applicants' meta-document, method and system, a record of all actions happening to a document are stored with the document each time the document is processed by an application program and for the entire life of the document.

McLean is not available as a reference under 35 USC §103 since 35 USC §103(c) applies: subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section when the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the claimed invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. Both McLean and the subject application are assigned to Xerox Corporation and, at the time the subject application was made, both were subject to an obligation of assignment to Xerox Corporation.

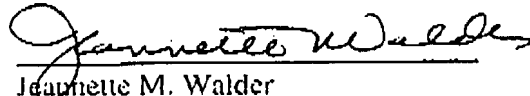
No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment; however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

Consideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the

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event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Attorney for Applicants, Jeannette Walder.

Respectfully submitted.



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Xerox Corporation
Santa Ana, California
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